

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. **(Currently Amended)** A conduit for a breathing circuit including a heater located within said conduit, said heater comprising an elongate heating element covered with an inner electrical insulating layer and at least partially covered with an outer hydrophilic layer, there being no means for direct supply of water or fluid to said hydrophilic layer from outside said conduit, said hydrophilic layer being formed so as to absorb water due to its structure, A conduit as claimed in claim 2 wherein said conduit is an expiratory conduit and said heater is located in an expiratory flow path of said conduit and at least a length of said conduit has a conduit wall wherein at least a region of said conduit wall is of a breathable material.

5. (Original) A conduit as claimed in claim 4 wherein said at least a region is or are distributed over said length of said conduit.

6. **(Currently Amended)** A conduit for a breathing circuit including a heater located within said conduit, said heater comprising an elongate heating element covered with an inner electrical insulating layer and at least partially covered with an outer hydrophilic layer, there being no means for direct supply of water or fluid to said hydrophilic layer from outside said conduit, said said hydrophilic layer being formed so as to absorb water due to its structure, said heater lying freely in said conduit to settle over at least some of its length at low points in said conduit where condensed water vapour may collect, A conduit as claimed in claim 3 wherein said conduit is an expiratory conduit and said heater is located in an expiratory flow path of said conduit and at least a length of said conduit has a conduit wall wherein at least a region of said conduit wall is of a breathable material.

7. (Original) A conduit as claimed in claim 6 wherein said at least a region is or are distributed over said length of said conduit.

8. **(Currently Amended)** A conduit for a breathing circuit including a heater located within said conduit, said heater comprising an elongate heating element covered with an inner electrical insulating layer and at least partially covered with an outer hydrophilic layer, there

being no means for direct supply of water or fluid to said hydrophilic layer from outside said conduit, A conduit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said hydrophilic layer is a braided sheath.

9. (Currently Amended) A conduit for a breathing circuit including a heater located within said conduit, said heater comprising an elongate heating element covered with an inner electrical insulating layer and at least partially covered with an outer hydrophilic layer, there being no means for direct supply of water or fluid to said hydrophilic layer from outside said conduit, said hydrophilic layer being formed so as to absorb water due to its structure, A conduit as claimed in claim 2, wherein said hydrophilic layer is a braided sheath.

10. (Currently Amended) A conduit for a breathing circuit including a heater located within said conduit, said heater comprising an elongate heating element covered with an inner electrical insulating layer and at least partially covered with an outer hydrophilic layer, there being no means for direct supply of water or fluid to said hydrophilic layer from outside said conduit, said hydrophilic layer being formed so as to absorb water due to its structure, said heater lying freely in said conduit to settle over at least some of its length at low points in said conduit where condensed water vapour may collect, A conduit as claimed in claim 3, wherein said hydrophilic layer is a braided sheath.

11. (Original) A conduit as claimed in claim 4, wherein said hydrophilic layer is a braided sheath.

12. (Cancelled)